Vol. VII. Numb. 100

THE OBSERVATOR.

Farther Remarks on the Encouragement given to a new Invasion, by the Rehearser's *misrepresenting the Church of* England, *as if their Principles were against the late Revolution. On the Faction's misrepresenting the House of Commons, for ordering a Pamphlet against the Test, to be burn'd. The Conduct of the Whigs in this Matter, a full Confutation of the Slander, that they are Enemies to the Church.*

From Wednesday, January 26. to Saturday, January 29. 1709.

Country-m. I Have been thinking of what you said in your last, Master, of the *French* King's having more Encouragement to renew the Attempt of invading us, than he had at first to undertake it; and am satisfy'd, that the *Rehearser*'s Weekly Libels upon our Constitution, and against the Queen's Title, and the Protestant Succession, is no small Encouragement towards that Design, especially when the Court of St. *Germains*, whose Partizans hug and promote his Paper, see it so impudently publish'd in Print, *That not one Man, who has a Drachm of Church-Blood in his Veins, but is of arbitrary Principles.* I think, Master, our Bishops and Clergy are concern'd in Honour to vindicate themselves from that Slander, and to censure him for it.

Obs. 'Tis long since he gave them Occasion to do so, *Roger*; but how it comes to pass, that he has had no publick Rebuke from them, I know not: Perhaps they may see the Necessity of taking him to Task for it some Time or other.

Country-m. Has he given them Occasion for it any otherwise than by his *Rehearsers*, Master?

Obs. Yes, *Roger*, several Years before he began that scandalous Libel. In the Preface to his *Regale and Pontificate*, Page 11. he does all he can to fix a Slander of Hypocrisy and Insincerity upon most of our Clergy who have comply'd with the Government since the Revolution, and endeavours to deprive the Church of *England* of the Honour, in which they justly glory, of having had the chief Hand in the Revolution. His Words are, 'I believe there were not so many as half a Dozen of 'the Clergy, who have the Honour to be suspected 'in it, or who were entrusted with the Secret; 'for not to reckon upon the Arch-bishop, and eight 'other Bishops with him, (who were near the half 'of the then Bishops in the Kingdom) and betwixt three and four hundred of the inferior be'nefic'd Clergy, besides many others who are not 'known, who have stood their Ground, this ap'pears yet more in that Reluctancy, which many, 'and the most eminent of those that comply'd, did 'express in their swallowing the Oaths, with De'clarations higher and lower, some sticking out to 'the last Day, and some even after.

Country-m. That's a staring Slander indeed, Master! There's not a Sentence in this Paragraph, but what is full charg'd with poysonous Rancour against the Revolution and her Majesty's Title. Certainly there was never a more false and malicious Charge publish'd in Print against the Church of *England*, than this.

Obs. You have just Reason to say so, *Roger*; for every one knows it to be as great a Falshood, as ever was invented by the Father of Lies; so that one would be amaz'd, that the Clergy in Convocation should not have taken him to Task, and pass'd a just Censure upon him, for such an unjust one upon them, which represents them as a Parcel of traiterous Hypocrites and Apostates; for nothing less can be the Meaning of his Words, when he says, That none but the Arch-bishop, and eight other Bishops, with three or four hundred of the inferior Clergy, besides many others, who are not known, stood their Ground, and that many of the rest swallow'd the Oaths with Reluctancy.

Country-m. I don't wonder, Master, that the Courts of St. *Germains* and *France* should think their Party strong here, when such impudent Slanders, and Misrepresentations of the Church of *England*, as if they were Men of arbitrary Principles, and that their Clergy had only made a feign'd Submission to the Government since the Revolution, are printed and publish'd with Impunity; and that the Faction had the Confidence some Years ago, in their Libel, call'd, *The exorbitant Grants of* William *the III.* dedicated to her Majesty; and offer'd to the Consideration of the then House of Commons, to propose a Scheme for setting aside the Protestant Succession, and bringing in the Pretender; and yet the traiterous Libeller was never punish'd, tho' by the Law, he ought to have been hang'd.

Obs. I took Notice of that last Year, *Roger*, when the Invasion was on foot; and now, that another is apprehended with too much Reason, you perceive the *Rehearser* lays about him, uses his utmost Endeavours to foment Divisions among us; impudently flies in the Face of the Law; does all he can to raise Divisions betwixt the united Nations, by running down the Church of *Scotland*, and the Dissenters of *England* and *Ireland*, as no Christians.

Country-m. 'Tis well enough known, Master, that his Tongue is no Slander; for since he belies the Church of *England* in such an audacious Manner, we are not to wonder, that he unchristens the Church of *Scotland*, and all the other Protestant Churches of the World; but had not his Malice perverted his Judgment, he ought first to have answer'd the 55th Canon of our own Church, which own'd the Church of *Scotland* to be a true Church, order'd her to be pray'd for as such, and by Consequence approv'd her Administrations as valid, tho' she was as much Presbyterian then as now, and settl'd upon the very same Foot by an Act of Parliament in 1592. which was renew'd since the Revolution, and is now ratify'd by the Parliament of *England* in the Union-Act; so that by his impudent Assertion, he flies in the Face of the Queen, and Parliament of this Part of the Island, who, as well as that of *Scotland*, have establish'd the Church there as a true Church, and assert the Purity of her Worship, tho' the Libeller has the Impudence to decry her Administrations as null; and to assert, that to be baptiz'd by a Porter is better than to be baptiz'd by the Moderator of the General Assembly.

Obs. He has a Stock of Impudence, *Roger*, that few Ages can parellel; but perhaps his Supporters may leave him in the Lurch, some Time or other, for all his Confidence.

Country-m. I don't wonder, Master, at his Forehead's being tipt with Brass, since, by our Letters from *Scotland*, we perceive the Party have so many Tinkers for their Champions. I assure you, Master, they are very uppish of late, especially since the

the Houſe of Commons order'd the Paper for repealing the Sacramental Teſt, to be burnt by the Hands of the Common Hang-man.

Obſ. I know, *Roger*, the Faction is very induſtrious to miſrepreſent that Matter, and magnify themſelves upon it; but without any Reaſon. We muſt allow the Houſe to be the propereſt Judges of what they are to do, and of the Manner and Time of doing it. 'Tis the Priviledge of every Subject that is capable, to offer their Opinion about ſuch Laws as may be fit to be enacted or repeal'd; but it ought to be done with all due Deference to the Legiſlature. Harſh Expreſſions and Poſitiveneſs, muſt in all ſuch Caſes be avoided, and Times and Seaſons ſhould be duly conſider'd, before Papers be preſented to Members of Parliament at the Door of the Houſe. We may ſpeak and propoſe without Doors, but muſt leave them to determine within; and every Thing ought to be carefully ſhunn'd, that may create Diviſions among her Majeſty's Subjects, eſpecially when the great Affairs of the Nation, and indeed of all *Europe*, are under Conſideration, for preſerving our common Liberty againſt an over-grown Tyrant and Oppreſſor. We have a Party of arbitrary Principles and reſtleſs Paſſions among us, that give every Thing a wrong Turn; ſuch as the *Rehearſer* and his Faction, who continually allarm the Nation, as if the Church were in Danger, tho' they be the only Perſons that endanger her themſelves, by their arbitrary Notions of Civil Government; by their Endeavours to bring in the Pretender, to put them in Execution; by their Schemes of reconciling her with the Church of *Rome*; and by their undermining her Doctrine, as the *Rehearſal* does in his *Regale and Pontificate*, and *Rehearſals*, where he attempts ſlily to ſubvert her Doctrine about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; which, contrary to Scripture and Reaſon, he would make a Sacrifice offer'd up by the Prieſts; and by his late uncharitable Doctrine about Baptiſm, he makes viſible Approaches to the Papiſts, as if the *Opus Operatum* were ſaving in it ſelf.

Country-m. I think, Maſter, his *Regale* and *Rehearſers* deſerve to be burnt by the Hand of the Hang-man, ſince he ſo palpably ſerves the Intereſt of Tyranny and Popery by them. In the mean Time, I am ſatisfy'd, that the Party have no Reaſon to over-value themſelves on the Houſe of Commons's ordering that Paper about the Sacramental Teſt to be burnt, becauſe of ſome harſh and poſitive Expreſſions in it; ſince 'tis very well known, that a great Number of as ſtaunch Church-men as any in *England*, are ſorry at the Profanation of that ſolemn Ordinance, by ſo many Perſons as take it, without thoſe Qualifications requir'd by the Scripture, and the Conſtitution of the Church, merely to make themſelves capable of Poſts and Places.

Obſ. We have no Reaſon to doubt, *Roger*, of the Readineſs of the Parliament to do every Thing that may unite Proteſtants, make them all capable of ſerving the Government, and to remove ſuch Things as may create a Jealouſy in the Church of *Scotland*, by making her Members uncapable of Poſts in *South Britain*, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, while thoſe of the Church of *England* are capable of any Poſt in *North Britain*; where ſome of them, at this very Time, are Barons of the *Exchequer*; but 'tis reaſonable to leave them to their own Time, and Way of doing it. However, *Roger*, there is this gain'd by the Cenſure of that Paper in the Houſe, That the World has now a convincing Proof of the Moderation of the Revolution-Party, who, tho' they have a known Majority, have fully confuted that abominable Slander caſt upon them by the *Rehearſer* in his Weekly Libels, *New Aſſociations*, *Caſſandra's*, *Wolf ſtript of his Shepherd's Cloathing*, &c. that they aim at the Deſtruction of the Church; whereas when his Party had the Aſcendant, we all know how violently they puſh'd on their *Occaſional Bills*, *Tacks*, &c. to the manifeſt Prejudice of her Majeſty's Affairs, and to the viſible Danger of embroiling the Nation, and retarding the Progreſs of the Confederate Arms, for Want of Money; ſo that this remarkable Inſtance of the Temper and Calmneſs of the Revolution-Party, notwithſtanding their being continually provok'd by ſeditious Libels and Slanders, ought rather to put the *Rehearſer*'s Faction to the Bluſh, than raiſe their Creſts upon falſe Inferences on the Conduct of the Whigs in this Matter.

Country-m. You ſay very well, Maſter. This ſhews quite another Spirit, than is to be found among the *Rehearſer*'s Faction, who did, in ſuch an unjuſt and tricking Manner, foiſt in the Sacramental Teſt into the Bill to prevent the Growth of Popery in *Ireland*, while an Invaſion was hatching in *Rome* and *France*, to dethrone her Majeſty; by which, that Noble and Great Body of Proteſtants in the *North* of *Ireland*, who twice ſav'd that Kingdom to the Crown of *England*, were made uncapable of doing it again, in Caſe of a third Rebellion; for which, by the Impudence of the Faction in *Britain* and *Ireland*, and particularly in the *North* of *Scotland*, we may plainly perceive they only want an Opportunity.

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